



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Rockville Scholarship Foundation Awards 2012 College Grants to Nine Local Students**

*Winners To Be Honored By City's Mayor and Council on June 11*

ROCKVILLE, Md., May 31, 2012 – Nine students demonstrating academic excellence and superior extracurricular involvement have been selected by the Rockville Scholarship Foundation (RSF) to receive college scholarship grants for the 2012-2013 academic year. Andrés Antuna, Sairam Nagulapalli, Laura Colin, Wellstood "Trey" Tipton III, Filitsa Katsani, Xavier Zientarski, Attom Oshima, Denise Gatcham, and Ana C. Davila Tandazo will each be awarded up to \$2,000 toward their higher-education.

Since its creation in 1985 as a partnership of the City of Rockville, Montgomery College-Rockville, RSF has granted more than 150 scholarships totaling nearly \$200,000 to college-bound Rockville students.

The 2012 winners will be honored at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 11, by Rockville's Mayor and Council, at Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville.

"I have been deeply moved by the difference the Rockville Scholarship Foundation makes in the lives of students and families in our community," said John Moser, president of RSF. "We are very proud of these highly motivated students and know they will make great contributions to our society."

Applicants were judged based on their accomplishments in five categories — academic standing, integrity and character, community involvement, school activities and need. All honorees reside within the corporate city limits of the City of Rockville, attend Rockville, Richard Montgomery or Wootton High Schools, or are college students attending Montgomery College-Rockville campus.

The 2012 winners are:

### **Andrés Antuna (\$2,000)**

Andrés Antuna is pursuing his goal to become an attorney, beginning as a Paralegal Studies student at Montgomery College. Antuna, a former Montgomery County Teen Court member, has always been interested in the justice system and hopes to use his experiences to make the community a better place. The City of Rockville resident wishes to be pragmatic and well prepared— all traits he will learn as he continues his studies at Montgomery College and eventually on in law school. In high school, Antuna maintained a 4.0 GPA and was a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. He is an active member of the Green Club at Montgomery College and enjoys swimming.

### **Sairam S. Nagulapalli (\$2,000)**

Juggling many leadership roles while finishing his second year at Montgomery College with a 4.0 GPA, Sairam Nagulapalli is pursuing his goal of obtaining a degree in Economics from the University of Maryland, College Park. The native of India and current City of Rockville resident has been honored with several awards for academic excellence including the Paul Myron/Robert White award and Edward McDowell award as well as the Maryland Collegiate Honor's Council's Portz Award for Outstanding Honors Student. Additionally, he managed the school's Student Senate committees and ensured the effectiveness of the Student Senate with a number of guidelines and bylaws he created.

(MORE)

**Sairam S. Nagulapalli (continued)**

He also helps the community by volunteering at Manna Food Center where he sorts and collects food donations and educates customers about hunger in Montgomery County at the Rockville Farmer's Market.

**Laura Colin (\$2,000)**

With community service at the forefront of her life, Laura Colin plans to continue to give back as she pursues a career as a physician. Colin is a leader in the Girl Scouts and also has packed more than 500 Thanksgiving baskets for the City of Rockville's Holiday Drive program. Colin has been honored with several awards such as The President's Award for Educational Excellence, the RMHS Varsity Tennis Award and the Girl Scout Silver award, the second highest award given in the organization. Colin is attending University of Maryland, College Park in the fall as a pre-medicine student and plans to become a physician.

**Wellstood "Trey" Tipton III (\$2,000)**

Entrepreneur and Richard Montgomery Senior Wellstood "Trey" Tipton III is the founder of Three Peak production company. The City of Rockville native is an active leader of a local Boy Scouts Troop with which he has participated in for more than seven years. Working to overcome severe financial set-backs in his family, Tipton plans to pursue a career in film starting with the cinematography/film program at Savannah College of Art and Design. He plans to bring the knowledge and skills he learns back to the City of Rockville to benefit the community.

**Filitsa Katsani (\$2,000)**

"Be the change you wish to see" is Filitsa Katsani's motto. Originally from Greece, the Rockville High School senior, plans to make a positive impact on the global community. Katsani has accomplished much in the two years she has resided in the United States, having maintained a high GPA while completing honors and AP classes. Her connection to the struggling country of Greece drove her to pursue a career in civil or environmental engineering at Montgomery College and eventually George Washington University.

**Xavier Zientarski (\$1,000)\***

Xavier Zientarski is a music major at Montgomery College who hopes to use his talents to help people broaden their outlook on the world. Zientarski plans to become a classical guitar teacher, performer and composer. He believes that music is an imperative form of communication that can help people understand one another, express themselves and expand their knowledge about different cultures. Zientarski has volunteered as a guitar teacher at the Sitar Art Center in Washington, D.C. and supported the Latin American Youth Center Art + Media House while also working in gardening and at a local Montessori School.

**Attom Oshima (\$1,000)\***

Attom Oshima attends Montgomery College pursuing a degree in business administration. He is a future entrepreneur who plans to make a positive impact on society by starting a socially conscious cafe franchise. Oshima maintains a 4.0 GPA, Dean's List and is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society while working in retail. He is active in the Montgomery College Astronomy Club, coaches NYSCA Volleyball and serves as a member of the Montgomery College Student Senate Governance.

**Denise Gatcham (\$1,000)\***

Denise Gatcham is a passionate student at Montgomery College who plans to pursue a career in nursing. Along with maintaining a 4.0 GPA and the Dean's List, Gatcham regularly teaches students how to play percussion instruments on the weekends. While attending Seneca Valley High School, Gatcham was awarded the MCPS ESOL Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Accomplishment, the African-American Festival of Academic Excellence and the Outstanding ESOL student at Seneca Valley High. Additionally, she is an avid soccer player who plays for Montgomery College's women's soccer team. Gatcham plans to serve the people of her native Cameroon by opening a future hospital there.

**Ana C. Davila Tandazo (\$1,000)\***

Ana Davila Tandazo is a Peruvian native who is pursuing a communication degree at Montgomery College. Building on her previous studies in law in Peru, Tandazo's goal is to become an expert communicator who helps people in her community have their ideas heard. Tandazo enjoys reading and expressing herself through words by enhancing her English skills. In addition, she is a volunteer with several events including the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference and "Gathering Peru" at Montgomery College.

\*Indicates, Montgomery College provided \$500 matching scholarship to student.

The Rockville Scholarship Foundation is a not-for-profit, charitable organization. Eligibility is open to residents in the corporate limits of Rockville; students attending a Rockville high school; and Montgomery College students (Rockville). RSF is administered by a volunteer Board of Directors. For further information, or to contribute, visit <http://www.rsfoundation.net/>.

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